

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A sliding door latch assembly comprising a vertically extended housing having a vertically extended major portion, ~~disposed a~~ pull handle opposing said housing opposite a housing locus extending over a major portion of but not all of the vertical extent of said housing, a latch mounted within said housing ~~locus~~ major portion and shiftable to and from said housing for locking a sliding door to a cooperating keeper mounted in a sliding door jamb opposite said latch, a rotary actuator within said housing ~~locus~~ major portion for shifting said latch, a hand-operated lever rotatably mounted to said housing beyond said housing major portion locus, ~~said lever being vertically spaced a predetermined distance from said rotary actuator~~, said lever being ~~rigidly linked from beyond said housing major portion~~ within said housing major portion for rotatably actuating said latch by said rotatable lever from beyond said housing major portion, ~~without having said lever within said housing locus~~ whereby hand actuation of the lever and latch is free of interference from said pull handle.

2. (original) The sliding door latch according to claim 1, in which said latch is hook-shaped and said cooperating keeper comprises a slot.

3. (currently amended) The sliding door latch according to claim 1, in which said housing is generally rectangular in cross-section.

4. (original) The sliding door latch according to claim 1, in which said lever further includes a rotatable lever plate, said lever plate and said lever being mounted to a common pivot for rotation together responsive to hand operation of said lever.

5. (original) The sliding door latch according to claim 1, in which said rotary actuator comprises a rotatable latch plate, said latch plate and said latch being mounted to a common pivot for rotation together responsive to actuation of said latch plate by said lever.

6. (original) The sliding door latch according to claim 5, in which said lever further comprises a rotatable lever plate, said lever plate and said lever being mounted to a common pivot for rotation together responsive to actuation of said latch plate by said lever, said lever plate and said latch plate being rigidly coupled such that rotation of the lever plate causes a like rotation in said latch plate and said latch.

7. (currently amended) The sliding door latch according to claim 6, including also a pair of bars having first ends movably fixed to said lever plate in diametrically opposed relation, said bars having second ends movably fixed to said latch plate in diametrically opposed relation, said bars and extending between said lever plate and said latch plate and, said bars being arranged to transmit rotary movement of said lever

plate to said latch plate.

8. (currently amended) The sliding door latch according to claim 7, in which said bars are of a length to extend from within said housing locus ~~to~~ major portion to beyond said housing locus and across said predetermined vertical distance.

9. (original) The sliding door latch according to claim 8, in which said latch is hook-shaped and said cooperating keeper comprises a slot.

10. (original) The sliding door latch according to claim 9, in which said housing is rectangular in cross-section and comprises front, rear and side walls, said front wall being slotted to pass said latch in shifting relation to and from said keeper, said side walls supporting said latch assembly.

11. (original) The sliding door latch according to claim 10, in which said pull handle is an inside handle, and including also an outside handle fixed to said housing.

12. (original) The sliding door latch according to claim 11, including also a sliding door having a leading stile, said leading stile defining said housing.

13. (original) A sliding door and latch assembly having a vertically disposed pull handle, a rotatable latch lever beyond said handle and a rotatable latch opposite said handle, a 4-bar coupling between said lever and said latch, whereby said latch is

rotatable from beyond said pull handle for engaging a cooperating keeper.

14. (new) A sliding door latch assembly comprising a vertically extended housing having a major vertically extended portion, a vertically disposed pull handle opposing said housing major portion, a latch mounted within said housing major portion and shiftable to and from said housing for locking a sliding door to a cooperating keeper mounted in a sliding door jamb opposite said latch, a rotary actuator within said housing major portion for shifting said latch, a hand-operated lever rotatably mounted to said housing beyond said housing major portion, a linkage extending from said rotary actuator within said housing major portion to said lever beyond said housing major portion for rotatably actuating said latch by said lever, whereby hand actuation of the lever and latch is free of interference from said pull handle.

15. (new) The sliding door latch according to claim 14, in which said latch is hook-shaped and said cooperating keeper comprises a slot.

16. (new) The sliding door latch according to claim 14, in which said housing is generally rectangular in cross-section.

17. (new) The sliding door latch according to claim 14, in which said lever further includes a rotatable lever plate arranged for rotation responsive to hand operation of said lever.

18. (new) The sliding door latch according to claim 14, in which said rotary actuator comprises a rotatable latch plate arranged for rotation responsive to actuation of said latch plate by said lever.

19. (new) The sliding door latch according to claim 18, in which said lever further comprises a rotatable lever plate arranged for rotation responsive to actuation of said latch plate by said lever, said lever plate and said latch plate being coupled such that rotation of the lever plate causes a like rotation in said latch plate and said latch.

20. (new) The sliding door latch according to claim 19, including also a pair of bars movably fixed to and extending between said lever plate and said latch plate, said bars being arranged to transmit rotary movement of said lever plate to said latch plate.

21. (new) The sliding door latch according to claim 20, in which said bars are generally parallel, said lever plate defines a bar between said bars of said bar pair, and said latch plate defines a further bar between said bars of said bar pair are of a length to extend from within said housing major portion to beyond said housing.